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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for year 1951.

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1951

*To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1951.

The vital statistics, taken broadly, show the same tendencies exhibited in recent years. Thus, the birth-rate and death-rate are both lower than in the previous year, the birth-rate having fallen from 14·5 to 13·9 per thousand population, and the death-rate from 9·3 to 8·2 per thousand population. The latter rate is very satisfactory, when compared with the figures for the country as a whole. The infant mortality rate, at 37·8 per thousand live births, was, however, higher than in the previous year.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was again relatively high, scarlet fever and whooping cough being considerably more prevalent than in the previous year. Fortunately, there was no death from scarlet fever, and only one death in 244 cases of whooping cough. Dysentery accounted for very considerably more cases than in the previous year, the increase being largely due to two outbreaks occurring in institutions within the District. Both outbreaks were brought under control satisfactorily by the medical authorities concerned. In contrast with the previous year, 76 cases of food poisoning were notified of which all but one were included in an outbreak occurring at a service camp in the District. All the cases were of a very mild nature.

As in previous years, I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the help which I have received during the year from Officers in other Departments of the Council and from all members of the staff of the Health Department.

C. E. JAMISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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and also

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Medical Officer of Health :

C. E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE LEEDER, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM E. SHAW, M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83,715
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,940
Number of inhabited houses at 1/4/51 according to Rate Books								9,580
Rateable Value at 1/4/51	...	...	...	...	...	...		£188,245/10
Net product of Penny Rate at 1/4/51	...	...	...	...	...	...		£725/9/11

HOUSING.

During the year, 112 persons were re-housed in new Council houses, while 61 were re-housed in re-let Council houses. The waiting list, during the same period, was reduced by 587, from 1,513 to 926 persons. The reduction in numbers was largely due, of course, to omission to re-register as still requiring a house. No doubt some of those not re-registering have found other accommodation, either in the District or elsewhere. Over-crowding still remains, however, a pressing social problem.

Once again, little progress can be reported in the demolition of those houses which are unfit for human habitation. It is obvious that the number of houses in this category is increasing from year to year, due partly to natural deterioration and partly to abnormal deterioration caused by inadequate maintenance.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action had to be taken on one occasion during the year to secure a court order for the removal of a person from her home to an institution, in order that proper care and attention could be received. I am glad to be able to say that improvement in the patient's condition was so satisfactory that it was later possible to allow the court order to lapse, and the patient to return to her home.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	301	271	572
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	307	275	582
Birth rate	...	...	13·88 per 1,000 population				

Still Births—					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Total					7	5	12
Rate per 1,000 total births					20.62		
Rate per 1,000 population					.286		

						Male	Female	Total
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	184	160	344
Death rate	...	...	8.20 per 1,000 population					
Death rate in infants under one year of age—								
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births							...	36.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births							...	100.0
All infants per 1,000 live births							...	37.8
Deaths from Cancer				...	...	...	...	48
Deaths from Measles				...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough				...	...	...	...	1

The following table gives the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for Lichfield Rural District, as compared with that for England and Wales, London, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), and 148 Smaller Towns :—

				BIRTHRATE		DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE
				LIVE	STILL		
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.5	0.36	12.5	29.6
London	...	...	...	17.8	0.37	13.1	26.4
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	...	...	...	17.3	0.45	13.4	33.9
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	16.7	0.38	12.5	27.6
Lichfield R. D.	...	...	...	13.9	0.29	8.2	37.8

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Year			Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1947	...	...	34,400	21.5	9.97	43.47
1948	...	...	34,340	17.82	9.11	37.58
1949	...	...	34,740	18.72	10.1	49.2
1950	...	...	40,340	14.5	9.3	29.01
1951	...	...	41,940	13.9	8.2	37.8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LICHFIELD DURING THE YEAR 1951.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	1	6
Tuberculosis, other	0	1	1
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	9	3	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	13	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	23	19	42
Coronary disease, angina	20	9	29
Hypertension with heart disease	3	5	8
Other heart disease	25	32	57
Other circulatory disease	6	7	13
Influenza	7	6	13
Pneumonia	2	7	9
Bronchitis	10	12	22
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	0	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	0
Congenital malformations	4	0	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	32	27	59
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	4	1	5
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	184	160	344

It will be noted that no mother died of any illness relating to pregnancy, abortion or childbirth.

The number of deaths resulting from suicide continues to increase, having risen from two in 1949 to three in 1950 and five in 1951. I am not attempting, however, to conjecture as to the cause for this increase.

As regards deaths due to accidents other than motor vehicle accidents, it is noteworthy that these occurred in persons of 75, 78 and 85 years respectively. Two were due to complications which habitually follow fractures in elderly people, while the third resulted from an accidental fall from his bedroom window.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

As in previous years, the Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories provided an excellent service in relation to the examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens.

Results of examinations carried out were as follows :—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacillus :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Throat—			
From Practitioners ...	—	47	47
From Isolation Hospital ...	—	1	1
Nose—			
From Practitioners ...	—	3	3
From Isolation Hospital ...	—	1	1
Ear—			
From Practitioners ...	—	—	—
From Isolation Hospital ...	—	—	—
Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus ...	13	108	121

Samples of Water :—

	Normal	Abnormal	Total
Chemical Examination ...	2	6	8
Bacteriological Examination	5	3	8

Other Specimens :—

Faeces... ..	149	65	214
Cerebrospinal Fluid ...	1	—	1
Blood	4	—	4

The following Clinic facilities are provided :—

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Place	Address	Day	Time
Alrewas ...	Oddfellows' Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	2—5 p.m.
Armitage ...	The Parish Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	1-30—5 p.m.
Chasetown ...	Social Institute	Wednesdays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
Fazeley ...	Victoria Memorial Hall	Mondays weekly	1-30—5 p.m.
Whittington	Girls' Club	3rd Thursday	2—5 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINIC

There is only one School Clinic in the District, at Chase Terrace Infants' School, where it is held weekly, on Tuesday mornings, between 9-30 a.m. and 12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Place	Address	Day	Time
Chasetown ...	Social Institute	Fridays weekly	9-30 a.m.—12-30 p.m.
Armitage ...	The Parish Hall	Tuesdays fortnightly	1-30—2 p.m.

NURSING IN THE HOME, HEALTH VISITING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICES

The domiciliary nursing services continued under the control of Staffordshire County Council. My dual position as Medical Officer of Health to Lichfield Rural District Council and Area Medical Officer to the County Council, continues to provide a link, so far as this District is concerned, between the environmental and the personal health services, including those mentioned above.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service continues under the administration of the County Council. As in previous years, the District is served by the Lichfield, Rugeley, and Mile Oak Stations, with occasional help, when required, from the Aldridge Station.

THE HOME HELP SERVICE

This service, also, is administered by the County Council. As stated in my last report, it is available to mothers after confinement, the blind and partially blind, the aged and infirm, and in cases of either acute or chronic illness of any type of the wife, mother or other person usually responsible for household duties. Now that the average age of the population is increasing year by year, the service is becoming increasingly necessary for the case of old persons. Most of us will regret, however, that its provision appears to be leading to a reduction in the voluntary service given in this field, although many examples of generous voluntary assistance still continue to be seen.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease were provided, as in previous years at the General Hospital, Birmingham; Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary; General Hospital, Stafford; Manor Hospital, Walsall; and at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

DIPHTHERIA

For the fourth year in succession, no case of diphtheria occurred in a child under 15 years of age. This illustrates once more the amazingly good results which have been obtained from the immunisation campaign which has been waged unceasingly in this and other parts of the country in recent years. The figures of cases and deaths in England and Wales, which are given below, will, I think, convince even the most sceptical that such a dramatic improvement can only be attributed to the immunisation campaign :—

Year		Cases of Diphtheria		Deaths from Diphtheria
1944	...	23,199	...	934
1945	...	18,596	...	722
1946	...	11,986	...	472
1947	...	5,609	...	244
1948	...	3,575	...	156
1949	...	1,890	...	84
1950	...	962	...	49
1951	...	699 (provisional)		34 (provisional)

The percentage of children immunised is reasonably good in this District, but could be much better, and it is to be hoped that all parents will avail themselves of the opportunity to have their children immunised either at the infant welfare clinic, at school or by the family doctor.

Immunisation should, of course, be carried out before the child is one year old and “boosting” doses given at five years and at ten years.

POLIOMYELITIS

After the dramatic increase in the previous year, only one case of poliomyelitis occurred in the District during 1951.

FOOD POISONING

As mentioned in my introductory note, the incidence of dysentery and food poisoning, which are broadly similar diseases, and so may be considered together, increased considerably, as compared with the previous year. The increase was due to two outbreaks of bacillary dysentery occurring in institutions and one fairly large, but, fortunately, very mild outbreak of food poisoning, which occurred at a service camp in the District. Each outbreak responded fairly quickly to the measures necessary for eradication. In two cases there was no known spread at all to the population outside the institution or camp concerned. In the third instance, a small number of cases did occur outside, but there was no evidence of any extensive spread of infection.

CLEAN FOOD

The facts given above indicate only too clearly the importance of clean food, if the spread of gastro-intestinal infections is to be prevented.

Supervision continues to be exercised by the Department over the conditions under which food is prepared in restaurants, public-houses, etc., and I am convinced that regular visits of inspection by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors constitute one of the most important safeguards against the sale of contaminated food. In this connection, the adoption by the Council of the Model Food Byelaws should prove helpful to them in the execution of this important duty.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SCHOOLS

During the year, the number of children excluded from school because of infectious disease, or contact with disease, at 834, was considerably higher than in the previous year. It was not, however, necessary to close any school because of an outbreak of infectious disease.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified, other than tuberculosis, and the number of deaths from those diseases, in 1951 :—

NATURE OF CASE	TOTAL 1948	TOTAL 1949	TOTAL 1950	TOTAL 1951	MALE	FEMALE	AGE DISTRIBUTION	DEATHS
Scarlet Fever ..	35	47	59	132	107	25	Under 1 — 2 1 — 2 — 3 3 — 4 — 8 5 — 9 — 14 10 — 14 — 13 15 — 24 — 69 Over 25 — 22 Age N.K. — 1	—
Whooping Cough	83	51	97	244	118	126	Under 1 — 27 1 — 2 — 33 3 — 4 — 64 5 — 9 — 78 10 — 14 — 37 Over 25 — 3 Age N.K. — 2	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	16	1	1	—	Over 25 — 1	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis			9	—	—	—		—
Measles	147	322	371	454	247	207	Under 1 — 12 1 — 2 — 49 3 — 4 — 138 5 — 9 — 186 10 — 14 — 45 15 — 24 — 9 Over 25 — 11 Age N.K. — 4	—
Pneumonia ..	20	20	56	102	72	30	Under 5 — 3 5 — 14 — 14 15 — 44 — 41 45 — 64 — 28 65 and over 13 Age N.K. — 3	9
Dysentery	—	1	2	123	29	94	Under 5 — 22 5 — 14 — 16 15 — 44 — 23 45 — 64 — 36 65 and over 15 Age N.K. — 11	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	1	1	1	—	Under 5 — 1	—
Erysipelas	4	4	1	3	1	2	15 — 44 — 3	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	1	1	1	—	15 — 44 — 1	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	2	4	76	75	1	Under 5 — 1 15 — 44 — 75	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	15 — 44 — 1	—

The following table shows the number of notifications of cases of infectious disease, per 1,000 civilian population, for the District, as compared with England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London), 148 Smaller Towns, and London Administrative County :—

DISEASE	ENGLAND AND WALES	126 C.B.'S. AND GREAT TOWNS INCLUDING LONDON	148 SMALLER TOWNS	LONDON ADMIN. COUNTY	LICHFIELD R.D.
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever ...	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	3.15
Whooping Cough ...	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	5.82
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.07
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	10.82
Pneumonia ...	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	2.43
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02
„ (Non-Paralytic)	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	1.81

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of the ages of the new cases notified, and deaths from this disease, during the year :—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45 years	3	3	1	—	3	1	—	1
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	7	11	5	4	5	1	—	1

Patients suffering from the disease were admitted to Hospitals and Sanatoria, during the year, as follows :—

Groundslow Sanatorium ...	4
Prestwood Sanatorium ...	3
Newcastle Isolation Hospital ...	3
Yardley Green Hospital, Birmingham ...	1
Manor Hospital, Walsall ...	1
Children's Hospital, Birmingham ...	1

The continued high incidence of tuberculosis, compared with previous years, is shown in the following table :—

YEAR	NEW CASES	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1935	29	6
1936	22	2
1937	16	11
1938	14	11
1939	19	9
1940	25	5
1941	22	4
1942	12	6
1943	15	2
1944	21	4
1945	11	3
1946	19	6
1947	22	7
1948	22	6
1949	21	5
1950	20	12
1951	18	9

It will be seen that the incidence of tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary, though slightly lower than in the previous year, is still disturbingly high. In view of the undoubted connection between overcrowded homes and the spread of tuberculosis, the Council has made housing available, when necessary, in order to allow of adequate isolation of those infectious patients who must be looked after at home, either while awaiting a bed in a sanatorium or after discharge from a sanatorium.

The “home help” service, mentioned in a previous paragraph, has been used to assist those households where the housewife is unable, by reason of illness, to carry out her full household duties, and where there is no other person able to undertake the work.

Routine investigation of milk produced in the District during the year revealed the organisms causing tuberculosis in 15 instances, as against 21 instances in the previous year. The herd was investigated in each case by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector. Notices requiring heat-treatment of all milk from the herds concerned were served in 11 instances, in order to protect consumers from danger during the period of investigation, before the infected cow could be removed from the herd in question.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

*(Prepared by J. G. Rimand, Esq., M.Inst.Mun.E.,
Engineer and Surveyor)*

Generally throughout the district all sewage works have shown a reasonably good effluent during the past year. These works have been well maintained and are being kept in condition by the workmen employed by you.

Alrewas.—The sewage disposal works at Alrewas is working satisfactorily but the flow from the village has increased, due to the erection of new houses and is now working to capacity. Plans will be prepared to cover the necessary extension to the works, to deal with future development.

In the village of Fradley, a second small pumping station and sewage disposal plant has been constructed to deal with the sewage from the Council houses erected there during the year. The general sewerage system of this village is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken at an early date to connect either to the Alrewas system or to provide a separate disposal works.

Armitage and Longdon.—The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for these parishes is completed, and is working very satisfactorily. A large number of houses have been connected to the new sewers, and, in consequence, conditions have considerably improved. The small sewage disposal works at Armitage is now giving an improved effluent but, as there has been extensive building since the war in the area it serves, its reserve capacity has been absorbed, and consideration may have to be given in the near future to its being replaced with a pumping plant discharging into the new disposal works.

Burntwood.—The pumping station at Cannock Road is working satisfactorily, but the Peter's Lane, Edial, disposal works are in need of enlargement to deal with the large quantity of storm water received, together with improvements in the methods of sludge disposal. This matter will have to be given serious attention as soon as conditions permit.

Chasetown.—The works at Chasetown are giving satisfactory service, and have sufficient reserve capacity to deal with large development at Oakdene, part of which is now connected.

Clifton Campville.—The sewerage system of this village is very inadequate. I have, however, constructed a tank and filter bed as a temporary measure, and this has resulted in a considerable improvement in the discharge from the local sewers.

Colton.—Conditions show little change in this parish, but some attention will be needed to the main sewer and the disposal works in the next few years.

Curborough and Elmhurst.—The new pumping station and disposal works near to the outfall of the sewer in the Elmhurst portion of the parish is working very satisfactorily.

Drayton Bassett.—The pumping station and disposal works constructed to deal with the sewage from the Council's housing estate is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage of the village, however, is unsatisfactory and steps will have to be taken at an early date to deal with same.

Edingale.—The small pumping station and disposal works, constructed to deal with the Council houses, is working satisfactorily. The general sewerage system of the village, however, is unsatisfactory, and steps will have to be taken at a very early date to put this in order.

Fazeley.—The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee, passing from the main sewer in Watling Street, under the canal, to Tamworth. Considerable development has taken place at Mile Oak, and the main sewer is inadequate. I prepared a scheme shortly before the war for providing a new sewer to relieve the flow, and the construction of a new disposal works, but this has had to be deferred owing to the war. Since the war, a sewage pumping station has been constructed at Brookend, Fazeley, to deal with the sewage from the housing estate ; this is working satisfactorily.

Gentleshaw.—A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been prepared to deal with a portion of this village, and, if the sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is obtained, work can be commenced at an early date.

Hammerwich.—The Watling Street disposal works is working satisfactorily, as is also the pumping station at Triangle.

Hamstall Ridware.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and, if the sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government can be obtained, will be carried out at an early date.

Harlaston.—These works are working as well as can be expected under the circumstances, but early attention will have to be given to alterations, to provide a more regular flow by the installation of an electric pump in place of a hand pump.

Hopwas.—These works, which were re-constructed before the war, are working satisfactorily.

Kings Bromley.—A scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a small disposal works. It is hoped that this scheme may be carried out at an early date, if consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government can be obtained. In the meantime, the tank constructed as a temporary measure at the sewer outfall is working satisfactorily.

Mavesyn Ridware.—The small pumping station and disposal plants constructed in Hill Ridware and Blithbury, in order to deal with the sewage from the Council houses, are working satisfactorily. The general sewerage position of Hill Ridware is, however, unsatisfactory, and will have to be dealt with in the near future.

Shenstone.—The disposal works is now in a poor condition, and a scheme is in course of preparation which will provide for a modern works on a new site. The pumping stations at Lynn Lane and Wood End are working satisfactorily. The disposal works at Lynn is working reasonably satisfactorily, but the flow is too small to give really efficient working. The disposal works at Little Aston are giving a satisfactory effluent, even though they are working practically to capacity. The question of the enlargement of these works is under consideration.

Streethay.—These works were re-constructed during the war, in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. Camp. A modern bacteria bed and humus tanks have been provided, and these are working satisfactorily.

Swinfen and Packington.—The disposal works at Botany Bay, to deal with the Council Housing Estate, is working very satisfactorily.

Wall.—The disposal works for this village is working satisfactorily and most of the village is now connected. The Muckley Corner end of the parish will, however, need attention in the near future. I have prepared proposals for same being connected to the extension proposed for Hammerwich, in order that this will be dealt with at the Peter's Lane disposal works.

Wigginton.—Conditions, in the portion of Wigginton village which is sewerage are quite good, the disposal being carried out by the Tamworth Sewerage Joint Committee.

Whittington.—The disposal works in this village is working satisfactorily. Consideration, however, would have to be given, in the not so distant future, for the modernising of same.

Brindley Heath, Elford, Hints and Weeford.—There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in these parishes, which have been considered, along with the remainder of the district, by the Sub-Committee, whose report has been presented. This report makes certain recommendations as to the order of the priority in which the works detailed in it shall be carried out, and steps will be taken to implement the Committee's decision as soon as present restrictions on the carrying out of capital work are lifted.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lichfield Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the District for 1951.

Steady but unspectacular progress can be noted in the field of environmental hygiene in the past year. Housing conditions generally provide our most difficult problem. The Council's programme of new house construction has relieved the overcrowding problem very substantially but it is regretted that little progress can be reported in the "reconditioning" of existing properties. Rising costs of repair and low rents still provide a difficulty which existing legislation cannot tackle and it will require a truly realistic approach to the whole problem with possibly new legislation before any improvement can be achieved in the steady deterioration of existing houses.

Other aspects of the Department's administration including food hygiene, rodent control and refuse disposal, all received careful attention. It is pleasing to record the obvious co-operation of the public and food retailers towards notices issued by the Medical Officer of Health suggesting that in the interests of hygiene dogs should be kept out of foodshops ; a small thing, but evidence of the increasing demand by the public for improved conditions in the handling of food.

I am indebted to the Members of the Council, their Officers, and particularly the Health Department staff, for their continued support and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE LEEDER,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

July, 1952.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.—The parishes of Fazeley and Wigginton and part of the Parish of Drayton Bassett are supplied by the Tamworth Waterworks Joint Board.

Part of the parish of Colton is supplied with water purchased by the Council from the Rugeley Urban District Council.

The parish or parts thereof, of Alrewas, Armitage, Brindley Heath, Burntwood, Clifton Campville, Colton, Curborough and Elmhurst, Drayton Bassett, Edingale, Elford, Farewell and Chorley, Fisherwick, Hammerwich, Hamstall Ridware, Harlaston, Hints, Kings Bromley, Longdon, Mavesyn Ridware, Shenstone, Streethay, Swinfen and Packington, Thorpe Constantine, Whittington, Weeford and Wall, are supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The general water supply position throughout the area can, I think, be viewed with considerable satisfaction. Every one of its twenty-eight parishes has a system of water mains supplying all but the smaller aggregations of houses.

In my report last year I said that of the eleven schemes of water mains extension submitted to the Ministry of Health under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the position at the end of 1950 was as follows :—

Completed 6. In hand 0. Recommended 2. In abeyance 3.

The two schemes recommended for early progress were a main from Cross Ash to Stonywell, Longdon, at an estimated cost of £1,680, and a main to serve parts of Goosemoor Green, Longdon, at an estimated cost of £1,300. Good progress was made towards the completion of both these schemes during the year and at the date of preparation of this report the Cross Ash to Stonywell scheme is almost completed and that at Goosemoor Green has been completed. Negotiations with all owners of properties along the course of both these mains to secure the connection of their properties to the mains are now in progress.

Due to their uneconomic nature no further action has been taken in respect of the three schemes mentioned as being in abeyance.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, for the following information relative to the piped water supplies of the district :—

1. The water supply to the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during 1951.

2. The supply to the Lichfield Rural District is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply not only the rural area but other districts as well. Regular samples are examined, both bacteriologically and chemically, from all stations pumping to supply, and where treatment is installed bacteriological examinations are also made of the raw waters. Samples are taken at monthly intervals both from the service reservoirs and from the piped supply at various points in the Rural District. During 1951 twenty-two samples from Gentleshaw Reservoir were examined and all were free from coliform bacteria, and out of a total of 160 samples taken from scattered points in the district, 156 were free from all types of coliform bacteria.

Owing to the number of supplying stations, the complexity of distribution, and the relative large area involved, wide variations are found in the chemical compositions of the waters supplied in the area. Thus, the hardness of the water averaged during 1951 :—

114 parts per million at Chase Terrace.
 194 parts per million at Clifton Campville.
 265 parts per million at Fradley Aerodrome.
 184 parts per million at Hamstall Ridware.
 215 parts per million at Little Aston.

The December analyses for these five points are enclosed.

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, and the 125 tap samples examined during 1951 were all free from any detectable traces of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the Pumping Stations, but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected part is carried out. Special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. The main, etc., is not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. (a) The number of dwelling houses supplied direct at 31st December, 1951, was 7,664, and the estimated population for these houses, based on an average of 3.75 persons per house, was 28,720.
 (b) The number of houses supplied by means of standpipes during 1951 is not readily obtainable but at a recent census which was undertaken for another purpose the number of houses supplied from standpipes was 121, or an estimated population of 454 persons served by this means based on the average of 3.75 persons per house.

The analyses referred to in (2) above showed these five samples of water to be of satisfactory quality both bacteriologically and chemically.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1951—31st March, 1952

The Council's Public Cleansing Service has again completed a full year's programme with satisfaction. It is to the credit of the Council that their service enables the whole District to receive a regular weekly clearance of refuse. Careful attention is given to ensure that all refuse is collected and tipped in such a manner as to cause the least possible nuisance. The total cost of the service, after allowing for income received for providing both Whittington Barracks and R.A.F. Fradley with an increased service, amounted to £14,750.

The Council's Salvage Service continued during the year with excellent results. A total of 154 tons 19 cwts. 1 qr. of waste paper was disposed of which together with 3 tons 1 cwt. of rags and sacking produced an income of £2,460 1s. 0d. The expenditure on the year amounted to £1,187 5s. 3d. leaving a net profit to the Council of £1,272 15s. 9d.

During the year the Council approved the provision of a new vehicle for the cleansing of cesspools. In addition to enabling an improved service to be given in connection with cesspools, this permitted an increase in the number of pail closets that could be dealt with and a regular weekly clearance of 620 pail closets is now made.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Works of maintenance to working class properties in the area has again been restricted principally owing to the difficulty owners of such properties experienced in securing the execution of repairs at reasonable cost and also to the reticence of builders to tender for such work. These factors have resulted in the requirements of the department being limited to securing the carrying out of works of essential repair and improvement. The defects shown in the following table were remedied during the year.

Defective or insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	28
Defective, insufficient or obstructed drainage	...	...	...	68
Defective roofs, spouting, external brickwork, etc.	...	...	...	94
Insufficient or defective light or ventilation	...	...	...	3
Dampness	...	...	...	34
Water Supply	...	...	...	15
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	30
Defective plaster, floors, and other internal defects	...	...	...	214
Defective ashbins	...	...	...	19
Defective paving	...	...	...	6
Vermin infestation	...	...	...	53
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8
In addition, nuisances were abated as follows :—				
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	8
River and Stream Pollution	...	...	...	2

HOUSING.

At December 31st, 1951, the progress made in the construction of new houses in the district was as follows :—

	Bungalows.	Council Houses.	Private Houses.
Completed	191	112	15
Building in progress ...	28	194	48

It was still not possible during the year for the Council to progress as rapidly as they would have liked in the construction of new houses, but towards the latter part of the year there were indications of an easing of this position. In the letting of these new houses many families occupying overcrowded or seriously unsuitable houses were re-housed by the Council, the appropriate Committee showing every consideration to representations made to them by their officers on these grounds.

Squatters

The 64 hutments on the portion of the R.A.F. Camp at Brindley Heath to which reference was made in my last report are still occupied. It is inevitable that such temporary structures, when exposed to the wear and tear of occupation as dwelling premises show rapid deterioration, and at the close of the year under review, despite all reasonable efforts to maintain them in as satisfactory a condition as possible, the position was considerably less satisfactory than was the case a year ago. Regular inspections are conducted by both the Health and Housing Departments to ensure that conditions are maintained at as high a level as is possible, but much dissatisfaction is continually expressed by the occupants as to their seriously inadequate accommodation. A regular weekly service of house refuse removal from all the huts has been maintained throughout the year.

Temporary Occupation of Condemned Houses

Of the eight houses which are the subject of Demolition Orders, and let under licence authorised by the Ministry of Health, which were so occupied at the end of 1950, two were closed during the year on the re-housing of the occupants by the Council. This policy will be continued and it should be possible to indicate a further improvement in my next report.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's responsibilities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, have been discharged with satisfaction throughout the year.

There have been no serious cases of infestation in any part of the district. Careful control is made of all the Council's refuse tips and, whenever necessary, treatment is carried out in accordance with the methods advised and recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There have been 48 visits in the course of the year amounting to 236 hours of the part-time rodent operator's employment. The amount received as a result of the small charge made to occupiers of private properties for this work totalled £7 10s. 0d.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

A number of visits were made and, although verbal warnings concerning closing hours were given in a few instances, in no case was it necessary to recommend formal proceedings.

It is hoped that a review of records of shops will be completed during the current year.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

(a) Meat and Food Inspection

The policy of inspecting casualty animals slaughtered within the rural district prior to being taken to Ministry of Food distribution centres in adjoining areas has continued throughout the year with good effect. In addition, other foods are examined at the request of shopkeepers from time to time. The total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year amounts to over 11 tons. Details are given in the following table :—

Article Inspected	Cause for Condemnation	Weight
52 lbs. Wet Fish	Unsound or unwholesome ...	52 lbs.
2 Cooked Hams	Unsound or unwholesome ...	29 lbs.
12 Turkeys	Unsound or unwholesome ...	100 lbs.
30 lbs. Tripe	Unsound or unwholesome ...	30 lbs.
336 Eggs	Unsound or unwholesome ...	42 lbs.
89 tins Meat and Fish	Unsound or unwholesome ...	212 lbs.
85 tins Fruit and Vegetables	Unsound or unwholesome ...	155 lbs.
19 tins Evaporated and Condensed Milk	Unsound or unwholesome ...	20 lbs.
Sultanas	Unsound or unwholesome ...	60 lbs.
Currants	Unsound or unwholesome ...	150 lbs.
Cheese	Unsound or unwholesome ...	1 lb.
7 Cow Carcases and all organs	Tuberculosis	2,470 lbs.
1 Heifer Carcase and organs	Tuberculosis	320 lbs.
1 Pig Carcase and all organs	Tuberculosis	300 lbs.
19 Cows' Heads	Tuberculosis	377 lbs.
40 Cows' Lungs	Tuberculosis	482 lbs.
6 Cows' Livers	Tuberculosis	70 lbs.
1 Bull's Head	Tuberculosis	23 lbs.
5 Pigs' Heads	Tuberculosis	70 lbs.
1 Cow's Skirt	Tuberculosis	3 lbs.
Forequarter, Brisket and Shin Beef	Tuberculosis	135 lbs.
1 Cow's Neck and Beef Trimmings	Tuberculosis	93 lbs.
1 Pig's Fry	Tuberculosis	7 lbs.
180 lbs. Pork	Tuberculosis	180 lbs.
19 Cows' Livers	Angioma	227 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs	Mammitis	650 lbs.
Flank and Brisket of Beef	Johnes disease	210 lbs.
1 Cow's Hindquarter	Wasted	100 lbs.
1 Pig's Heart	Pericarditis	1 lb.
2 Cows' Kidneys	Cysts	2 lbs.
1 Cow's Lungs	Cirrhosis	12 lbs.
5 Cows' Livers	Cirrhosis	62 lbs.
3 Sheeps' Livers	Cirrhosis	11 lbs.
1 Cow's Head	Actinomycosis	20 lbs.
5 Cows' Lungs	Pneumonia	62 lbs.
1 Pig's Lungs	Pneumonia	5 lbs.
1 Pig's Fry	Pneumonia	6 lbs.
24 Cows' Livers	Fatty	290 lbs.
28 Sheeps' Livers	Fatty	112 lbs.
1 Calf's Liver	Fatty	7 lbs.
1 Cow's Lungs	Adhesions	12 lbs.
2 Cows' Livers	Haematoma	26 lbs.
4 Cows' Lungs	Hydatid Cysts	50 lbs.

Article Inspected	Cause for	Condemnation	Weight
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Pericarditis	...	600 lbs.
2 Calf Carcases and all organs ...	Pericarditis	...	184 lbs.
Forequarter of Beef ...	Pericarditis	...	285 lbs.
1 Cow's Lungs ...	Pericarditis	...	11 lbs.
1 Cow's Heart ...	Pericarditis	...	2 lbs.
1 Calf's Heart ...	Pericarditis	...	1 lb.
1 Pig Carcase and all organs ...	Pyaemia	...	200 lbs.
1 Bullock Carcase and all organs ...	Pyaemia	...	375 lbs.
13 Cow Carcases and all organs ...	Oedema	...	5,250 lbs.
1 Bullock Carcase and all organs ...	Oedema	...	450 lbs.
4 Sheep Carcases and all organs ...	Oedema	...	240 lbs.
1 Pig Carcase and all organs ...	Oedema	...	25 lbs.
Forequarter and Hindquarter Beef ...	Oedema	...	550 lbs.
1 Side of Mutton ...	Oedema	...	65 lbs.
1 Cow's Head ...	Oedema	...	19 lbs.
2 Cows' Heads ...	Inflammation	...	41 lbs.
$\frac{1}{2}$ Cow's Liver ...	Inflammation	...	6 lbs.
1 Cow's Stomach ...	Inflammation	...	20 lbs.
1 Pig's Head ...	Inflammation	...	14 lbs.
2 Sheeps' Plucks ...	Inflammation	...	14 lbs.
7 Cows' Lungs ...	Emphysema	...	87 lbs.
1 Pig's Pluck ...	Emphysema	...	5 lbs.
1 Pig Carcase and all organs ...	Orticaria	...	70 bs.
1 Cow's Lungs ...	Abscesses	...	12 lbs.
4 Cows' Livers ...	Abscesses	...	47 lbs.
2 Cows' Heads ...	Abscesses	...	40 lbs.
Part Hindquarter Beef ...	Abscesses	...	40 lbs.
2 Loins Pork ...	Abscesses	...	45 lbs.
1 Pig's Spleen and Intestines ...	Abscesses	...	12 lbs.
1 Sheep's Pluck ...	Abscesses	...	7 lbs.
20 Cows' Lungs ...	Congested	...	244 lbs.
6 Cows' Livers ...	Congested	...	72 lbs.
6 Cows' Spleens ...	Congested	...	18 lbs.
2 Cows' Hearts ...	Congested	...	6 lbs.
Beef Flank and Forequarter ...	Congested	...	180 lbs.
1 Bull's Head ...	Congested	...	20 lbs.
1 Cow's Tripe ...	Congested	...	3 lbs.
13 Pigs' Lungs ...	Congested	...	75 lbs.
1 Sheep's Heart ...	Congested	...	1 lb.
Forequarter Beef ...	Blackleg	...	160 lbs.
1 Pig Carcase and all organs ...	Septicaemia	...	140 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Bracken poisoning	...	320 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Dropsical	...	500 lbs.
1 Sheep Carcase and all organs ...	Joint Ill	...	50 lbs.
1 Cow Carcase and all organs ...	Uraemia	...	350 lbs.
2 Sheeps' Livers ...	Fluked	...	8 lbs.
6 Cows' Kidneys ...	Nephritis	...	6 lbs.
7 Cow Carcases and all organs ...	Fevered	...	3,280 lbs.
1 Heifer Carcase and all organs ...	Fevered	...	400 lbs.
3 Cow Carcases and all organs ...	Bruised	...	1,100 lbs.
Hindquarter, Forequarter and Sides of Beef ...	Bruised	...	2,556 lbs.
2 Sheep Carcases and all organs ...	Bruised	...	135 lbs.
6 Beef Shins with Beef Trimmings ...	Bruised	...	227 lbs.
1 Side Mutton and Mutton Trimmings	Bruised	...	102 lbs.
8 Sheeps' Legs ...	Bruised	...	64 lbs.
2 Cows' Lungs ...	Bruised	...	23 lbs.
1 Cow's Head ...	Bruised	...	20 lbs.
1 Cow's Kidney ...	Bruised	...	1 lb.
1 Cow's Tail ...	Bruised	...	1 lb.
1 Sheep's Pluck ...	Bruised	...	7 lbs.
4 Pigs' Feet ...	Bruised	...	2 lbs.
TOTAL			26,034 lbs.

The following table of carcasses inspected and condemned is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed	22	232	45	99	117
Number inspected	22	224	45	99	59
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	28	2	7	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	86	4	42	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	45.5	50.9	13.3	49.5	37.2
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	7	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	45	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	18.2	23.2	—	—	11.9

(b) Ice Cream Premises.

There are five premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream within the District. Two of these manufacturers are equipped to use the "Hot Mix" plant in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

During the year twenty-five shops were registered for the retail sale of Ice Cream, bringing the total of such shops on the register to sixty-five. It should perhaps be noted that, very largely, their sales are confined to pre-packed ices.

(c) Cafes, Canteens and Public Houses.

There are approximately 84 premises within the District which come within the classification of a catering establishment. Inspections are made from time to time in order to check on the standard of hygiene and, generally speaking, the premises were found to be maintained in satisfactory manner.

(d) Foodshops.

As recommended by the Ministry of Food, the Council approved the issue by the Medical Officer of Health of display notices to all retail food shops, requesting the public that, in the interests of hygiene, dogs should be kept out of foodshops.

The notices were fully appreciated by all traders and were prominently displayed. From observation and enquiries it is obvious that the general public have co-operated very well in this matter, which indicates the general desire for improvements in the hygienic handling of foodstuffs.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
 LICHFIELD, in the COUNTY OF STAFFORD
 Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES

Premises.			
Factories with mechanical power	..	..	...
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and ing construction but not including outworkers' premises)			
TOTAL	..		...

2.—DEFECTS

Particulars.			
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..
Overcrowding	..	..	..
Unreasonable temperature	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation	..	..	..
Ineffective drainage of floors		..	..
Sanitary Conveniences	{ insufficient .. unsuitable or defective .. not separate for sexes ..		
No Certificate as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire			
Emission of Fumes	..	..	..
TOTAL	..		..

the year 1951, for the RURAL DISTRICT OF
RD, on the administration of the Factory and
37.

OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
..	13	4	...
..	3	...	...
eer-	...	...	...
..	16	4	...

FOUND.

	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
..
..
..
..
..
..	1	1	...	...
..	1	1	...	...
..
..	2	2	...	...
..
..	4	4	...	...

C. E. JAMISON, Medical Officer of Health.

